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Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation  
We Bark for Parks—We Woof For Forests

# The Outdoor Dog

## Your Dog-Friendly PA State Parks & Forests

Bummed because your four-legged friend can't stay overnight with you in a state park cabin? There's good news! Beginning in April 2012, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will kick off a pilot program to allow dogs in camping cottages and cabins in seven state parks.

The per pet fee will be \$5/night for modern/rustic cabins and deluxe cottages and \$2/night for a standard camping cottage. DCNR pet camping guidelines allow only leashed, house-trained dogs with up-to-date rabies vaccinations to participate.

The seven pilot parks are:

Chapman (Warren County)

Cowans Gap (Fulton County)

Kooser (Somerset County)

Poe Valley (Centre County)

Prince Gallitzin (Cambria County)

Promised Land (Pike County)

Pymatuning (Crawford County)

Additional guidelines and program

information can be found on DCNR's website:

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/staythenight/cabins/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/staythenight/cabins/index.htm)



**Clio wonders why no one ever wants to take her camping**

*Clio At Her Leisure  
Photo by Pam Metzger*

## Campground Loop Sites Still Available

Pets are allowed in all of the Pennsylvania State Parks as long as they are on a leash (6' long or less). In addition, special pet-friendly campground loops can be found at the following state parks:

Bald Eagle	Gifford Pinchot	Locust Lake	R.B. Winter
Black Moshannon	Greenwood Furnace	Lyman Run	Raccoon Creek
Blue Knob	Hickory Run	Ohio Pyle	Ravensburg
Caledonia	Hills Creek	Oil Creek	Reeds Gap
Chapman	Kettle Creek	Parker Dam	Ricketts Glen
Codorus	Keystone	Penn-Roosevelt	Ryerson Station
Colonel Denning	Kooser	Pine Grove Furnace	Shawnee
Cook Forest	Lackawanna	Poe Paddy	Sinnemahoning
Cowans Gap	Laurel Hill	Poe Valley	Tobyhanna
Fowlers Hollow	Laurel Ridge	Prince Gallitzin	Trough Creek
Frances Slocum	Little Buffalo	Promised Land	Worlds End
French Creek	Little Pine	Pymatuning	

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## Safe Hiking This Fall (and Year ‘Round)

Looking to escape your hometown haunts for a wilderness hike? Don't forget your pooch! Dogs love to explore our vast natural resources as much their two-legged counterparts—not to mention that hiking is great exercise for both of you. But remember, a hiking trail isn't always your average walk around the block.

It's best to leave the flexi-leads at home, otherwise you'll probably spend more time untangling your dog from trees and brush than walking! State Parks require a leash of 6' or under.

If your pup is the trustworthy sort and you want to give him the chance to enjoy some untethered time on your hike, first make sure that dogs are allowed to be off-leash in the area you're exploring. Second, be sure that he responds reliably to your recall command—even the most obedient dog might bolt after some fascinating new critter. Third, be absolutely sure about hunting season and have Spot appropriately attired in blaze orange. There are any number of choices available in Pet Supermarkets throughout the land. It wouldn't be a bad idea for you to have an orange jacket or sweatshirt either!

Remember, too, that some people get very nervous around unleashed dogs. As a

courtesy have a leash on standby to clip to your dog when encountering other hikers.

Always make sure that your current contact information, including your cell phone number, is attached to your dog's collar or body harness.

You never know what you may encounter on a hike—so before setting out into the wilderness, check your pet's veterinary records and make sure his vaccinations are up-to-date.

**Training tip:** Teach your dog to come to you for treats whenever you pass by other hikers, especially if they have dogs, too. Your dog will learn to not interfere with passersby, and at the same time, you're ensuring he associates new people and dogs with good things, like tasty treats from you.

If poop falls in the woods and no one else sees it, do you get a free pass? NO! Please have respect for your surroundings, native wildlife and fellow hikers by

scooping up after your dog and toting the baggie back to civilization.

Even in the cooler fall temperatures, both of you need to stay hydrated, so bring enough water for two. Don't allow your pup to drink from puddles, ponds, lakes or streams as they may contain nasty parasites or toxins.

When your hike is finished, give your pooch a thorough once-over for ticks and other creepy-crawlies.

Pay special attention to her belly, ears, and any skin folds and crevices. If you do spot a tick, treat the area with rubbing alcohol and remove the parasite immediately by slowly pulling it off with tweezers. Be careful when removing a tick, as any contact with its blood can potentially transmit infection to your dog or even to you. Wash the bite area and keep an eye on it for the next few days—if irritation persists, contact your vet.

And last, but not least, make sure you have your camera so that you can submit your photo to next year's PPF Dogs in the Outdoors photo contest!

Source: <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/pet-care-tips/hiking-safety-tips.html>

**“Teach your dog to come for treats when you meet other hikers. He'll learn to associate new people with good things.”**

## Rules for Pets in Pennsylvania State Park Campgrounds

### **Responsible Ownership is the Key!**

No more than two non-caged pets in one campsite.

Owners must pick up after their pets and properly dispose of pet waste.

Dogs and cats must have current rabies vaccinations and a valid license if one is required in their home state.

Pets must not be left unattended.

Pets must be controlled at all times and may not be a disturbance. Excessive barking is a disturbance.



**Maggie knows that good behavior means she'll always be welcome in her favorite park!**

*PPFF's 2011 Dogs in the Outdoors Photo Contest  
Honorable Mention  
Photo by Carly Reese*

Pet food should be kept inside camping units to not attract other wildlife.

Pets must be walked in designated walking areas only.

No pets allowed in buildings, swimming areas, or any area closed to pets.

Animals that are considered vicious, dangerous or that display aggressive behavior will not be permitted in the park.